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NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



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imagery analysis report

STYX Missile-Associated Activity Ethiopia (TSR)

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STYX MISSILE-ASSOCIATED ACTIVITY ETHIOPIA (TSR)

1. (TSR) Analysis of high-resolution imagery has made possible the identification of a temporary STYX missile handling facility at Aseb Barracks Area North () along Ethiopia's Red Sea coast. This report discusses the installations that have been associated with the deployment of the STYX missile system to Ethiopia.

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2. (TSR) On () an Osa-II guided missile patrol boat (PTG) was observed for the first time in Ethiopia at Aseb Port Facilities (). This vessel was not at the port on () and had probably been delivered by a Soviet Roslavl ocean tug (ATA) which was observed departing the port on (). The Osa-II is a Soviet-produced missile attack boat that carries four STYX surface-to-surface cruise missiles.

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3. (TSR) On () support equipment for the STYX missile system was observed in a small storage area on the northern edge of Aseb Port Facilities. Equipment for the STYX system was stored in this area through early fall 1978; equipment identified there included two oxidizer semitrailers, two probable fuel trucks, one truck-mounted crane, and various support vehicles (Figure 1).

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4. (TSR) During July 1978 the Ethiopians began to set up a STYX missile handling facility in the northern portion of Aseb Barracks Area North, approximately 2.5 nautical miles (nm) north of Aseb Port Facilities. A missile checkout tent was erected between () and a STYX missile crate was observed for the first time on (). The support equipment that had been observed in the storage area at Aseb Port Facilities was being transferred to this new facility between July and October, with all of the equipment observed at the new facility on (). From August 1978 through () no unusual activity was observed at this facility and no additional equipment was identified (Figure 2).

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5. (TSR) No significant construction activity was observed at Aseb Barracks Area North in conjunction with the establishment of this handling facility, indicating that the facility is probably temporary. The handling and maintenance of Ethiopia's STYX missiles will probably be done on a permanent basis at the Aseb Missile Handling Facility () which is currently in a late stage of construction approximately 0.5 nm north of the temporary STYX handling facility.¹ Construction of Aseb Missile Handling Facility was begun between () the same time that the temporary handling facility was being established at Aseb Barracks Area North. No missile handling equipment or missile canisters/crates have been observed at the Aseb Missile Handling Facility; however, the buildings there are of the type and size necessary to accommodate the maintenance, fueling, and assembly/checkout of a liquid propellant missile such as the STYX.

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REFERENCE

1. NPIC, () IAR-0030/79, *Missile Handling Facility Under Construction, Aseb, Ethiopia (TSR)*, Sep 79 (TOP SECRET ())

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(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to () Middle East and Free World Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, ()

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